Demand for Indian Coffee

797. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN': Will the Minister of .COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's atten teion has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Coffee prices spill over as Ministry, Board bungle" which appeared in 'The Observer of Business and Polities', New Delhi dated the 14th July, 1994;

(b) if so what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto: and

(c) what are the measures Government propose to ensure that the international demand for Indian coffee, which is going up, is not effected and the cartel of exporters led by Brooke Bond India Limited and Nestle India do not resort to aggressive buying to make a fast buck?

THE MINISTER. OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Gpvernment's attention has been drawn to this newsitem. However, there is no bungling whatsoever, on the part of the Coffee Board or the Ministry of Commerce. After introduction of free sale quota for the. growers by the end of 1993-94 season alongwith the single auction system for domestic and export market, taking I.CO. indicator price as reserve price, the international prices of coffee are reflecting on domestic market also Due to various reasons; including reported damage to coffee crop in Brazil, there is a general shortage of eofffe in the world market. This has resulted in the coffee prices showing an upward trend in most international auetion centres.

(c) The free sale quota has been introduced this year specifically with a view that Indian exporters can establish themselves in international market. There is no cartel of exporters since common open auctions are now conducted by the Coffee Board for exports as well! as for domestic buyer*

Export of spices

798. SHRI SARDA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the export of spices;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction during the last three years;

(e) the names of the countries to which different kind of spiees have been exported during the last three vara; and

(d) the year-wise details (hereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE. (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE!: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Govermmnt/3pi':e.; Board has taken a number of steps
for promotion of export of spices. These include:—

(i; Quality evaluation and Upgradation to international standards;

(ii) Promotion of export of va luc added spices in the form of curry powder, spice oil and oleo-resms branded consumer packed spices' dehydrated green pepper etc.

(iii) Strengthening the market base in existing markets and iden-tfying new markets;

(iv) Providing assistance for promotion of specific brands by in dividual exporters in overseas markets; ....

(v) Popularising logo as a mark of Indianness and quality to spices in consumer packs;

(vi) Sponsoring sales-cum-study delegation, participation in selected international food fairs and organising buyer-seller meets;